

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented): A method of displaying advertisements to a user of an online service provider using a client application on a local device, the local device including an input device and an output device, the client application accessing an online server associated with the online service provider and providing access to the Internet, the method comprising:

- a) the client application activating;
- b) the client application commencing an initial online session with the online service provider to gain access to the Internet, the client application operating independently of an Internet browser and operating concurrently with the Internet browser;
- c) the client application receiving sponsorship data from the online service provider, the sponsorship data comprising a sponsorship object including a resource locator associated with a sponsorship label to be displayed and a resource locator associated with a click-through of the sponsorship label;
- d) the client application causing a client window to be displayed on the output device, the client window remaining fully visible so long as the online session with the online service provider persists, wherein the client window is displayed independently of a browser window generated by the Internet browser;
- e) the client application displaying a sponsorship label on the client window by referring to the resource locator associated with the sponsorship label to be displayed, the sponsorship label comprising a hypertext link, wherein, when the user clicks on the sponsorship label, the client application causes the local device to access the resource locator associated with a click-through of the sponsorship label;

f) the client application causing a first advertisement to be displayed in the client window, wherein the client application retrieves the first advertisement from a memory cache local to the local device;

g) the client application receiving a second advertisement from the online server;

h) the client application causing the second advertisement to be displayed in the client window.

2. (Previously presented): The method of displaying advertisements to a user of an online service provider using a client application on a local device of claim 1, wherein the client application commences the initial online session by establishing a communication channel via a public switched telephone network from the local device to the online server.

3. (Previously presented): The method of displaying advertisements to a user of an online service provider using a client application on a local device of claim 1, wherein the client application commencing an initial online session comprises:

a) the client application transmitting a request to the online service provider to authorize the local device to interact with a web server;

b) the client application receiving from the online service provider authorization for the local device to interact with the web server.

4. (Previously presented): The method of displaying advertisements to a user of an online service provider using a client application on a local device of claim 1, wherein the resource locator associated with the click-through of the sponsorship label comprises a uniform resource locator associated with an Internet web page.

5. (Previously presented): The method of displaying advertisements to a user of an online service provider using a client application on a local device of claim 1, wherein the sponsorship label is located on a title bar of the client window.

6. (Previously presented): The method of displaying advertisements to a user of an online service provider using a client application on a local device of claim 1, wherein the second advertisement is included within a play list comprising at least one ad object, each ad object comprising a resource locator for a given advertisement, a resource locator for a click-through associated with the given advertisement, and at least one display attribute for the given advertisement, the play list further specifying an order in which the advertisements identified in the play list are to be displayed.

7. (Previously presented): A method of displaying sponsorship information to a user of an online service provider using a client application on a local device, the local device including an input device and an output device, the client application accessing an online server associated with the online service provider and providing access to the Internet, the method comprising:

- a) the client application activating;
- b) the client application commencing an online session with the online service provider, the client application operating independently of an Internet browser and operating concurrently with the Internet browser;
- c) the client application receiving sponsorship data from the online service provider, the sponsorship data comprising a sponsorship object including a resource locator associated with a sponsorship label to be displayed;
- d) the client application causing a client window to be displayed on the output device, the client window remaining fully visible and on top of all other windows so long as the online session with the online service provider persists, wherein the client window is displayed concurrently with a browser window generated by the Internet browser;
- e) the client application causing the sponsorship label to be displayed on the client window, the sponsorship label comprising a hypertext link to be accessed if a user clicks on the sponsorship label;

f) the client application retrieving a first advertisement from a memory cache local to the local device;

g) the client application causing the first advertisement to be displayed in the client window.

8. (Previously presented): The method of displaying advertisements to a user of an online service provider using a client application on a local device of claim 7, additionally comprising the online service provider transmitting a second advertisement to the local device and the client application causing the second advertisement to be displayed in the client window.

9. (Previously presented): The method of displaying advertisements to a user of an online service provider using a client application on a local device of claim 7, wherein the client application commences the online session by establishing a communication channel via a public switched telephone network from the local device to the online service provider.

10. (Previously presented): The method of displaying advertisements to a user of an online service provider using a client application on a local device of claim 7, wherein the client application commencing an online session comprises:

a) the client application transmitting a request to the online service provider to authorize the local device to interact with a web server;

b) the client application receiving from the online server authorization for the local device to interact with the web server.

11. (Previously presented): A system for selecting advertisements for display to a user of an online service provider, the system comprising a computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having software for causing a local device to:

a) commence an online session with an online server provider through which the user accesses the Internet;

b) display a client window on an output device of the local device, the client window remaining fully visible and on top of all other windows so long as the online session persists and the client window is displayed independently of and concurrently with a browser window generated by an Internet browser;

c) obtain sponsorship data from the online service provider, the sponsorship data comprising a sponsorship object including a resource locator associated with a sponsorship label to be displayed in the client window;

d) display the sponsorship label in the client window, the sponsorship label comprising a hypertext link associated with a resource locator to be accessed if a user clicks on the sponsorship label;

e) retrieve a first advertisement from a memory cache local to the local device;

f) display the first advertisement in the client window.

12. (Previously presented): The system for selecting advertisements for display to a user of an online service provider of claim 11, the software further for causing the local device to obtain a second advertisement from the online service provider and further for causing the local device to display the second advertisement in the client window.

13. (Previously presented): The system for selecting advertisements for display to a user of an online service provider of claim 11, wherein the local device commences the online session by establishing a communication channel via a public switched telephone network from the local device to the online service provider.

14. (Previously presented): The system for selecting advertisements for display to a user of an online service provider of claim 11, wherein the client application causes the local device to commence the online session by causing the local device to transmit a request to the online service provider to authorize the local device to interact with a web server.

15. (Previously presented): A system for selecting advertisements for display to a user of an online service provider, the system comprising a computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having software for causing a local device to:

- a) commence an online session with the online service provider;
- b) obtain sponsorship data from the online service provider, the sponsorship data comprising a sponsorship object including a resource locator associated with a sponsorship label to be displayed and a resource locator associated with a click-through of the sponsorship label;
- c) display a client window on the output device, the client window remaining fully visible and on top of all other windows while the online session persists with the online service provider, wherein the client window is displayed independently of a browser window generated by an Internet browser;
- d) display the sponsorship label in the client window, the sponsorship label comprising a hypertext link;
- e) access the resource locator associated with a click-through of the sponsorship label when the user clicks through on the sponsorship label;
- f) retrieve a first advertisement from a local memory cache;
- g) display the first advertisement in the client window.

16. (Previously presented): The system for selecting advertisements for display to a user of an online service provider of claim 15, wherein the local device commences an initial online session by establishing a communication channel via a public switched telephone network from the local device to the online service provider.

17. (Previously presented): The system for selecting advertisements for display to a user of an online service provider of claim 15, wherein the client application causes the local device to commence the online session by causing the local device to transmit a request to the online service provider to authorize the local device to interact with a web server.

18. (Previously presented): The system for selecting advertisements for display to a user of an online service provider of claim 15, wherein the resource locator associated with the click-through of the sponsorship label comprises a uniform resource locator associated with an Internet web page.

19. (Previously presented): The system for selecting advertisements for display to a user of an online service provider of claim 15, wherein the sponsorship label is located on a title bar of the client window.

20. (Previously presented): The system for selecting advertisements for display to a user of an online service provider of claim 15, the computer usable medium having further software for causing a local device to:

obtain a second advertisement from the online service provider, wherein the second advertisement is included within a play list comprising at least one ad object, each ad object comprising a resource locator for a given advertisement, a resource locator for a click-through associated with the given advertisement, and at least one display attribute for the given advertisement, the play list further specifying an order in which the advertisements identified in the play list are to be displayed;

display the second advertisement in the client window.

21. (Previously presented): A method of displaying advertisements to a user of an online service provider using a client application on a local device, the local device including an input device and an output device, the user using the client application for accessing an online service provider and a web server associated with the online service provider, the method comprising:

a) the client application commencing an online session by establishing a communication channel from the local device to an online server of the online service provider, the client application operating independently of an Internet browser and operating concurrently with the Internet browser;

b) the client application displaying a client window on the output device of the local device, the client window remaining fully visible so long as the online session with the online service provider persists, wherein the client window is displayed independently of a browser window generated by the Internet browser;

c) the client application causing at least one advertisement to be displayed in the client window;

d) the client application allowing the user to access data from the web server by the user using the input device to interact with the client window and the Internet browser;

e) the client application monitoring the user's interaction with the client window and the Internet browser and assembling a usage history for the user based on the user's interaction, the usage history being descriptive of the subject matter of the data that the user accessed from the web server;

f) the client application receiving an instruction from the user to terminate the online session;

g) the client application displaying an exit window on the output device of the local device, wherein the exit window includes an advertisement box associated with an exit window advertisement, the exit window displayed independently of the browser window generated by the Internet browser;

h) the client application receiving from the online server an identification of an exit window advertisement for display to the user, the exit window advertisement selected by the online server based upon the usage history, wherein a subject matter of the exit window advertisement is related to the subject matter described in the usage history;

i) the client application receiving instructions from the online server to display the exit window advertisement in the advertisement box of the exit window;

j) the client application causing the exit window advertisement to be displayed in the advertisement box of the exit window.

22. (Previously presented): The method of displaying advertisements to a user of an online service provider using a client application on a local device of claim 21, further comprising the client application providing the user with the option to cancel the instruction to terminate the online session.

23. (Previously presented): The method of displaying advertisements to a user of an online service provider using a client application on a local device of claim 21, wherein the exit window advertisement is associated with a resource locator, the method further comprising:

- a) the client application recognizing the user performing a click-through on the exit window advertisement using the input device of the local device;
- b) the client application causing the resource locator associated with the exit window advertisement to be loaded in a browser window in response to the click-through;
- c) the client application canceling the instruction to terminate the online session;
- d) the client application removing the exit window from the output device.

24. (Previously presented): The method of displaying advertisements to a user of an online service provider using a client application on a local device of claim 21, wherein the communication channel comprises a dial-up communication channel.

25. (Previously presented): The method of displaying advertisements to a user of an online service provider using a client application on a local device of claim 21, wherein the communication channel comprises a constant connection communication channel, and wherein the client application establishing a communication channel comprises:

- a) the client application transmitting a request to the online server of the online service provider to authorize the local device to interact with the web server;
- b) the client application providing authorization for the local device to interact with the web server.